

OF WINTER RACING.

IT IS PRACTICED REGULARLY ON ONLY ONE TRACK.

The "Guttenburg Mini" and its Unique Night Watchman - Prompt Work in Case of Storm - Stables for 200 Horses - An Accommodating Justice.

(Special Correspondence.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. - Well muffled up against the biting winter winds, with an old fur cap pulled down over his ears and a quid of tobacco in his mouth, there marches back and forth in front of a great deserted building throughout the long hours of the night an individual whose vigil is perhaps the most curious ever imposed upon any watchman on land or sea. He carries neither lantern nor club, and his frequent observations of the heavens, together with his total indifference to his immediate surroundings, show conclusively that he apprehends danger only from above. He is engaged in a sleepless and careful watch of nothing under the heavens, but of the heavens themselves.



THE GRAND STAND.

If the night passes by with nothing more threatening than a few dark clouds and a little drizzle he continues his quiet pacing to and fro. Let those clouds, however, drop but the first few flakes of an approaching snowstorm and on the instant this watchman, like a sentinel alarmed, is all activity. At his prompt summons there issue from unexpected quarters detachments of men armed with shovels, who, as the snow thickens upon the ground, industriously shovel it away. It is an uncommon thing for half a hundred men, aroused from their beds at midnight by this watchman of the weather, to fight the falling snow incessantly until long after daylight or until it ceases.

This is at Guttenburg, N. J., the only spot or locality on the habitable globe where horse racing has gone on without a single day's interruption throughout an entire winter season. There has been racing at Guttenburg when the thermometer registered 23 degrees below zero, and when the snow everywhere lay on its back itself nearly three feet deep. Hudson river, raised there in gales of sheet laden wind, in drizzling torrents of rain and in fogs so thick that the animals and their riders have been invisible to either the judges or the spectators on any part of the course, save that directly in front of the grand stand and the wire. It must be a blizzard of uncommon dimensions to cause a postponement of the daily Guttenburg races, and the snow must fall thick and fast that can get the better of the all night track shovellers and render the race course impossible to race upon.

Just two miles and a half by road lies the Guttenburg track from the Jersey end of the New York and Weehawken ferry. Jay street and Forty-second street are the two points from which every day densely crowded ferry boats leave New York. From the latter slip it is but a few moments' sail across the Hudson river, the trip from Jay street, further down town, being upward of two miles long. Landed on Jersey soil the racegoer is given his choice of several ways to reach the track. He may climb a steep hill for the distance of a third of a mile and at the summit board a narrow gauge steam train; he may ride to the cars in the rickety omnibuses (at five cents per head) or he may take passage in any one of hundreds of cabs, trams, coaches, landaus, picnic brakes, barouches, carriages, buckboards, express wagons or what not to the track directly, the fare varying from twenty-five to fifty cents, according to the stylishness of the conveyance. "These things he must do at the present writing, but within six weeks a more convenient mode of traveling will be opened to him in the form of enormous passenger elevators, the largest in the world, which will take the racegoers, hundreds at a time, right plumb upward from the gates of the ferryhouse to a trestle on a level with the summit of the hill, from which trestle he will be whisked in steam cars to the track.

Were the facilities for reaching Guttenburg much less adequate than they are, it is not likely that the daily attendance would be materially decreased. Betting upon the races has become a business with a large number of New Yorkers, and although the city poolrooms "attend to the wants" of a great many, there is still a large contingent of bettors who prefer to



JUDGE BURKE.

visit the track. The daily attendance throughout the winter seldom falls below 3,000, and on Saturdays and holidays there are frequently from 10,000 to 12,000 persons present, the price of admission being uniformly one dollar.

The history of this racing winter is interesting. It dates from the midwinter of 1885. Following the close of the regular season of summer racing in that year, the Brighton Park Racing association continued its meeting throughout the fall and up to Christmas day, having run 125 days in all. The authorities at that point interrupted the racing at Brighton beach, and to the dismay of scores of horsemen from the south and other parts an end was put to any opportunity of enabling their horses to do more than eat their heads off in idle idleness.

When this sudden blow came from the arm of the law the attention of a few horse owners was called to a small half mile track that lay on the top of the hill in the vicinity of Guttenburg. Hudson

county, N. J. This little half mile track was the property of the North Hudson Driving Park association, and had been built not for money making purposes, but to furnish the owners of speedy trotters in Jersey City and vicinity an opportunity to test the respective merits of their animals. The few shrewd sporting men who hit upon the idea of continuing the suddenly interrupted race meeting at Brighton beach, Coney Island, on the Guttenburg half mile track, secured an indefinite lease of the same from the North Hudson Driving Park association. The stock of this association was at that time less than \$50,000; today it is capitalized at \$425,000.

So intimate and intricate are the existing relations between the North Hudson Driving Park association lessees and the North Hudson Jockey club lessors that it is difficult to explain precisely by what process the stock of the former association was so vastly increased, or how it happened to be held in the main by the gentlemen who compose the latter association. It can be truthfully said, however, that the original stockholders in the driving park scheme are abundantly satisfied with the way that matters have turned out, because, for a large part, each is holder of but one share of stock (of a par value of \$100), upon which they not only receive a liberal rate of interest, but which single share of stock likewise entitles each to a silver badge good for all time as admission to the Guttenburg races.

The amount of money offered in purses daily at the Guttenburg race track averages throughout the season from \$2,800 to \$3,000, the largest purse offered at any one race during the season being \$1,300. The receipts of the club independent of admissions are obtained from the rental of book-making stands at the steep price of \$100 a day for each bookmaker, between twenty and thirty bookmakers being constantly on hand.

The magnitude of the proportions to which winter racing has grown will be realized when it is said that there is no race track in the United States which has so large a stabling facility as the track at Guttenburg. Within the enclosure of the race grounds themselves there are stalls for 300 horses and accommodation just outside the enclosure for nearly as many more. There are probably, including trainers, jockeys, stable boys and helpers generally, at least 1,000 souls who live and make their permanent winter homes at Guttenburg.

In the fall of 1889 Guttenburg was opened as a full mile race track, and a large grand stand, with a glass front and fitted up with enormous heaters, was erected to take the place of the little building which previously served as a stand for spectators. A new betting ring, with accommodations for an army of bookmakers, was also built at the same time, and in fact everything was arranged with an obvious view of the permanency of winter racing as an institution. A few terrifically



STARTER CALDWELL.

inclement days have, to be sure, caused a temporary cessation of the racing merry-go-round on the hill, but there has never been a day's interruption of the racing by the authorities of New Jersey. Arrests have been and at the present time are being made by officers of the law, but the bookmakers and officials arrested are quite as promptly released on bail by a justice of the peace, who has established a convenient court in an unused stable just outside of the track.

Although Guttenburg has not attracted the highest class of thoroughbreds, it cannot be truthfully said that horses of national prominence have not on occasions made their appearance there, or that as a rule the entries are unworthy of attention in a strictly racing sense. The innovation stakes, which are run on Jan. 1 each year, furnishes the first race in the United States for two-year-olds, and not a few "cracks" have made their debut at Guttenburg. This made their debut at Guttenburg. This was notably true last season of Eclipse and the Refraction filly. Lountaka, the winner of last year's Suburban, was also a graduate from Guttenburg, and Longstreet, who promises great things this year, has also tried his fleetness on the hilltop track. The three chief events of the Guttenburg season are the Innovation stakes, the George Washington stakes (run on Feb. 22), and the Shamrock stakes, which is the feature of St. Patrick's Day. The purse for each of these events is \$1,000. It is wrong, also, to conclude that nothing but short and unimportant dashes is the rule at Guttenburg. Races of one mile or of frequent occurrence, and very recently a two mile race was run.

Mr. Caldwell, who has for years officiated on the summer tracks of the east, and who is generally known to the public as the "prince of starters," has recently been engaged exclusively by the Guttenburg people at a salary of \$25,000 a year, and Judge Joseph J. Burke, whose authority in the judges' stand at Guttenburg is unquestioned, has a national reputation for fairness.

Just at present the eyes of the racing world are upon the New Jersey legislature in session at Trenton to see what will be done in the matter of giving New Jersey a pool-selling law, such as exists in New York state. Such a law is most devoutly wished for by the people of the famous Monmouth park race track at Long Branch, and by the tracks at Elizabeth and Linden, N. J., none of which tracks was permitted to hold race meetings last summer. The Guttenburg people, apparently calm in the assurance that they will not be seriously interfered with by the authorities of Hudson county, N. J., claim to be entirely indifferent as to whether the legislature does or does not legalize their money making business.

N. P. BARBOCK.

Turned Into a House of Prayer. Satan is suffering complete rout from the revivalists of West Trenton, Me. Everybody is enthusiastic on the subject of religious revivals. A dance hall was recently completed in West Trenton, but it will never serve the purpose for which it was intended, inasmuch as it has already been converted into a Methodist church.

SECRET SOCIETIES

MASONIC.

The Pleasant Home for German Brothers at Tappan, N. Y.

Within sight and hearing of the trains thundering by on the West Shore railroad, and less than half a mile from the famous building where General Washington made his headquarters at Tappan, N. Y., stands a big, old fashioned three storied dwelling. Spacious grounds surround it and a broad drive fringed by handsome trees and shrubbery leads from the big double gates to the broad piazza running across the front of the building. Capacious armchairs and rockers ranged along the big piazza invite repose. There is not a speck or a suggestion of untidiness.

To the right of the walk, as I neared the house the other day, says a writer, in the New York Herald, was a handsome bed of flowers, and in the center they fashioned the name, "German Masonic Home." A small sign above the piazza gave the same information. I was inside the grounds of the famous home established by the German Masonic fraternity of New York city. Twenty-two lodges annually contribute to the support of the home. The lodges are all represented in the handsome German Masonic temple in East Fifth street, New York.

The home and eighteen acres of land attached to it were purchased by the German Masonic fraternity in 1888. The big



GERMAN MASON'S HOME.

forty room dwelling now used as the home was erected by John Reuter, the former owner, as a private residence. Under the care of Superintendent Pirages the farm has become as fertile as a garden. It has a fine wood lot and good grazing land.

There is not an uncomfortable or gloomy room in the house. A broad hall extends through the center of the third floor, and from it on each side open bedrooms. Over each door in gilt letters is the name of the lodge of which the occupant is a member. The bedrooms are much alike, except that the double ones contain two single beds instead of one. The bedrooms are of iron, brass tipped, and each bed is furnished with woven wire springs, a curled hair mattress, warm blankets and snowy sheets and coverlets. The floors are covered with body Brussels carpets of cheerful pattern, and each single room contains a handsome polished oak dressing table and wardrobe and several chairs. In the double rooms these articles are duplicated.

Steam radiators are in all the rooms, and gas manufactured in the cellar furnishes the light at night. The lights must all be extinguished at 10 o'clock every night. The second floor is almost an exact duplicate of the third, except that at the east end of the building on this floor there is a handsomely furnished ladies' parlor. There are also two bathrooms on this floor, one for the men and a smaller one for women.

AMERICAN LEGION OF HONOR.

Statistics from the Recent Supreme Session - Notes.

Reports of the recent supreme session at Long Branch, N. J., show 51 assessments from July 1, 1890, to June 30, 1891. The revenue to benefit fund was \$5,220,204.12; total paid to beneficiaries, \$4,704,500. For the year 1890, 63,574 members, and paid claims, \$2,472,324; the expense of management by the supreme council was \$87,302. The supreme council was authorized to issue dispensation making the law adopted at the session apply to all members initiated from September, 1891, to Jan. 1, 1892, limiting the number of assessments to eighteen per year, and to continue for two years from January, 1892. The revised book of laws took effect Nov. 2, 1891. The commander, secretary and collector shall constitute the relief committee, but each member of the council shall be subject to the orders of the commander in attending sick and disabled companions. Each companion having presented and had initiated ten applicants before Jan. 1, 1892, will be entitled to twenty dollars.

Three assessments were called for December, the number of deaths making this number necessary. Supreme Secretary Warnock has been elected president of the National Fraternal congress, and under his able and intelligent management that representative body promises to be more useful than ever before.

Four new councils are soon to be instituted on Long Island. A number of councils are being organized in the towns along the Hudson.

The order has now over 64,000 members, about 20,000 of whom are of New York state.

I. O. O. F.

Some News About Kansas-Lodge Room Echoes.

The grand lodge of Kansas pays its officers salaries as follows: Grand master, \$1,000; grand secretary, \$1,500; grand treasurer, \$800; secretary of the fraternal benefit association, \$500. The membership in the state is 18,000 and the per capita tax is sixty cents.

Bro. John Drew, of Kansas, is a member of Burlington, No. 14. He joined the order in 1894, fifty-seven years ago, and has never been in arrears for dues. He is ninety-two years old.

The Northwestern Odd Fellows Review believes in fraternal reciprocity and advocates the union of the Independent and Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows.

The latest novelty in degree work is a staff composed entirely of past grand masters in full dress suits. A New York lodge boasts of this feature.

Five grand sires were in attendance at the sessions of the sovereign grand lodge in St. Louis, viz.: James B. Nicholson, Pennsylvania; James P. Sanders, New York; Cornelius A. Logan, Kansas; John H. White, New York, and John C. Underwood, Kentucky.

The grand master of Ohio is allowed \$2,700 per annum for his services and expenses and devotes his entire time to the order.

Massachusetts has 207 lodges and 42,998 members—an average of 204 to the lodge, and a net gain for the term ending June 30 of 1,790.

KNIGHTS OF HONOR.

Commander in Chief Ludwig on the Order's Growth - Notes.

Bro. O. D. Ludwig, of Louisiana, commander in chief of the uniformed rank, was recently interviewed by a St. Louis Globe-Democrat reporter. He said: "I have been all over the north, and never was our order in a more prosperous condition. Like many other societies which have achieved great results, ours had a very small beginning. Its foundation was brought about in this way: One night, nineteen years ago, seven young men were engaged in conversation around the table of a house in the (at that time) little town of Louisville. All the seven men were young. They were students, and one of them was so juvenile in appearance and in reality that he was known by the name of 'Baby.' These seven said to themselves that each would agree to subscribe so much to a common fund, and, in the event of either of them dying, an allowance would be made out of that fund to their relatives. The plan was agreed to, the fund was started and so began the organization of the Knights of Honor. The youth of that day is now a fine gentleman and holds one of the first positions in the society. When I say that in the nineteen states we have paid out \$27,000 you will see the rapid growth of the organization."

Grace lodge, located at Harlem, N. Y., has a membership of 500. Centennial lodge, of New York city, has a roll of members of about 1,100.

The supreme treasurer's quarterly report shows that in the three months ending Sept. 30 he received \$80,192.30 and paid out \$18,466.30. The balance on hand Sept. 30 was \$22,727.97.

One hundred and sixty-six deaths were registered with the supreme reporter since the last call. Of these 12 were from Massachusetts. E. H. Brown, of Murray, Ky., who joined the order Nov. 20, 1878, and died on Sept. 20, 1891, had paid in the largest amount, \$227.50. Karl E. Spies, of La Crosse, Wis., who was drowned Aug. 8, had paid to the Widows and Orphans benefit only one dollar. One of the number had been a member of the order seventeen years; 6 were members less than one year.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

The Next Supreme Conclave at Kansas City - Helmet Glints.

Great interest is being taken throughout the country in regard to the next supreme conclave at Kansas City in August, 1892. Not only among Pythian circles, but many leaders of other orders acknowledge it will be one of the grandest meetings in many particulars ever held by a secret society. The citizens and knights of this great western metropolis are actively preparing for the occasion. Already accommodations are being arranged by the local committees for regiments and brigades.

On June 30, 1891, West Virginia had 57 lodges with a membership of 3,292 and 17 divisions of the Uniformed rank. Laclede, Linn county, Mo., has a new K. of P. lodge.

There are about 300 resident Knights of Pythias in Salt Lake City.

Oak lodge, of Cleveland, grades its candidates. All under thirty-five years of age, \$15; age forty, \$20; forty-five, \$25, and fifty, \$30. Many members of the fraternity have been under the impression that they had paid her fee \$30, when in reality she has only graded the fees according to age.

Towa had at last report 503 lodges and near 18,000 loyal knights.

A. O. U. W.

A General Statement of the Order's Condition - Notes.

In the whole order there were 267,611 members in good standing Nov. 1. This was a net gain for twelve months of 22,942. The gain for the month of November was 3,259.

Three hundred and fifty-seven thousand six hundred and sixty-seven cents were paid from the beneficiary fund in November, giving a grand total disbursed from organization to Dec. 1, 1891, of \$37,776,349.53. The jurisdiction of Georgia, Alabama, etc., showed a decrease of 40 for October, while Ontario dropped off 241. To offset these losses there was a net gain in the whole order of 2,230, of which Massachusetts is credited with the largest number—532.

Texas was the only southern jurisdiction that made a net gain in September, which gain was 46.

The members in Oklahoma desire to make a separate jurisdiction of the Indian Territory, and a movement to that end is among the early possibilities.

New England Order Protection.

The order has just passed its fourth anniversary and has nearly 12,000 benefit members, carrying insurance aggregating \$19,500,000. There have been 141 deaths in the order during the four years, the beneficiaries receiving from the order on these deaths \$278,000. During the year 1891 there have been 14 assessments called, which include 32 deaths on which benefits have been paid amounting to \$113,000, divided as follows: Maine, \$17,000; New Hampshire, \$3,000; Vermont, \$4,000; Massachusetts, \$47,000; Rhode Island, \$5,000; Connecticut, \$30,000.

United Friends.

The monthly statement from the imperial recorder, Dr. O. M. Sheild, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., showed 20 deaths, amounting to \$36,000; \$4,500 of this amount has been paid on total disability benefits. Of the 20 deaths New York is credited with 11, Massachusetts has 3 and Connecticut has 1. The longest time of membership of any of the deceased members was 9 years 9 months and 11 days; the shortest time was 2 years 6 months and 29 days. The largest amount contributed to the relief funds was \$429 and the smallest amount was \$30.

Improved Order of Heptasophs.

The Improved Order of Heptasophs had no assessment for December—making the very creditable showing of only nine for the year. And the financial status of the order shows up also in fine shape. Supreme Secretary Eareckson's report for December gives balances on hand—endowment fund, \$14,443.37; general fund, \$619.63.

Order of Franklin.

Since the order was started 1,003 certificates have been written, amounting to \$3,226,000; those canceled by death, lapses and surrendered amount to over \$600,000.

The order has had but three deaths since incorporation, May 14, 1890.

Knights of the Tented Maccabees. Deputy Supreme Commander Sir Knight J. M. Emerins for California writes: "I have closed the charter of Los Angeles tent with a total membership of 229, which is the largest and, by great odds, the finest body ever organized in this city."

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